



SAM Release Notes

Build 2015-03-27

March 27, 2015



Change Log

Version #	Date of Change	Section	Description of Change	Changed By
1	03/09/2015	All	Initial draft	IBM
2	03/16/2015	All	Incorporated GSA Comments	IBM
3	03/18/2015	Section 4	Incorporated GSA Comments	IBM
4	3/20/2015	Section 4	Minor Update	IBM

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Overview

With each software release, we work to improve the System for Award Management (SAM) user experience, improve the quality of information available from SAM, and reduce the burden for those wishing to do business with the U.S. Federal government. We do this through a combination of minor enhancements and fixing known issues. This document summarizes the customer-facing changes that were made to the SAM application and database in the development window culminating in the build to production on March 27, 2015.

Release Notes

Description	Reference IDs
Enhancements	
Incorporated a new Disaster Response Registry Search page that allows users to easily search by geographic location served for contractors willing to provide debris removal, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other disaster or emergency relief services in the event of a national disaster.	8884
Added a message that displays on the Assertions and Reps & Certs pages to explain these sections are completed based on why the entity registered, e.g. they are not required for an entity who only registered to pursue Federal assistance opportunities. This will reduce confusion for Federal officials viewing the registrations.	10637
Added the two-character State value next to the numeric Congressional District on the Core Data and Entity Review pages to make it easier for users to quickly identify in which Congressional District the registrant is located.	12743
Enhanced usability of the BioPreferred Contract page: users may now search by Contract Number or Ref PIID and also have the option of a "Clear" button which returns the page to its default status.	13642
Updated the General Data Access Information page to be consistent with the Individual and System Data Access Information pages to provide more clear guidance for users wanting to use the data in SAM.	13870
Updated the design and layout of the Data Access Request page for Individual and System Account users to increase usability.	13872



Updated the Role/Extract table across Data Access Request and Data Access General Information pages to increase usability.	13883
Added Kosovo, West Bank, and Gaza Strip to the valid country selections for registrants increasing data accuracy for international entities.	14961
Enhanced the pending role request email notifications to show all recipients in the "To:" field enabling better coordination for role approval in SAM.	14962
Added the CAGE/NCAGE Code as a search parameter to the SAM Status Tracker increasing usability for quickly checking an entity's registration status.	14964
Updated the application to allow users to select a second business type if they select Manufacturer of Goods on the General Information page in order for manufacturers to clearly identify themselves for the Federal supply system increasing data accuracy.	14968
Updated the create date displayed on exclusion records migrated from the legacy Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) to reflect the original creation date instead of the date the exclusions were migrated into SAM.	14972
Added a new text box in the role rejection process so that users can provide a reason for rejecting roles. This reason will also be displayed in the email notification reducing confusion on the requestor's part.	15014
Increased data standardization for reporting purposes by only presenting certain U.S. Territories (i.e. American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) as values in the State/Province field instead of in both that and the Country field.	15020
Removed the ability for Federal users granted access to Sensitive Entity Management Data to see registrant's Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN) when viewing registration data on the SAM website.	15021
Updated the navigation process for Federal users entering an individual exclusion in SAM in order to improve the user's experience.	15030
Updated error messages on the Points of Contact (POC) Details page to make them specific both to the POC type and the data field containing the error increasing usability.	15916
Exclusions Management	
Created a SAM-formatted system interface for Federal users to upload multiple exclusion records at once increasing efficiency.	7915



Updated the Reference Table for CT Code RRR, and conducted a data management fix on inactive exclusion records containing the old CT Code RRR, so that the corresponding Exclusion Type is Prohibition/Restriction increasing data accuracy.	15670
Manage Data Access	
Renamed the user's navigation link "Manage My Data Access" to better reflect its purpose and to distinguish it from the site-wide link on the navigation bar named "Data Access."	13580
Added the UTF-8 version of the SAM Entity Management Public Data Package to the SAM Public Extract section of the Data Access tab, in addition to where it was already posted under the SAM Entity Management section, making it easier to find.	14042
Added the SAM Entity Management extracts to the Data Access - Entity Management [System Account] page making them easier to find.	14087
Removed the Legacy extract boxes from the SAM Data Access pages as the Legacy-formatted extracts were retired on November 1, 2014.	15235
Manage Service Contract Reporting	
Fixed an issue preventing capture of the "create" time stamp in the database for Service Contract Reporting (SCR) to provide better reporting transparency.	15258
Posted the new SCR Report on February 18, 2015 in accordance with policy guidance to the Data Access page, where it is accessible by logged-in Federal users.	15575
Register/Update Entity	
Fixed an issue impacting registrants when they changed their Purpose of Registration: the application now removes any unnecessary data that is not applicable to the new Purpose of Registration streamlining the registration process.	7913
Fixed an issue preventing system account administrators from updating their Department/Agency name on their SAM System Account Information page.	13090
Fixed an issue where registrations that had failed CAGE Code validation could become stuck in submitted status when certain conditions occurred reducing user frustration and streamlining the registration process.	14816
Manage Entity Core Data	



Added "*" to mandatory fields on the Proceedings Details section reducing user confusion.	11705
Fixed an issue on the CAGE Ownership Details page to ensure the keyboard tabbed to the next data element in the correct sequence reducing potential user confusion.	13793
Fixed an issue where international registrants were failing NCAGE validation because they created a DUNS+4 on the Financial Information page of their registration. Only one NCAGE can be assigned per location. This fix reduces user frustration by preventing international registrants from adding an additional account (DUNS+4) while trying to use the same NCAGE Code.	14369
Manage Entity Assertions	
Fixed two data validation rules to ensure when registrants select "Yes" to being on the Disaster Response Registry, they must make a selection from the Geographic Area Served options and indicate whether their company requires bonding to bid on contracts increasing data integrity of the Disaster Response Registry.	13037
Manage Entity Reps & Certs	
Updated FAR provision 52.209-2 to reflect text in "Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations—Representation (Dec 2014)" increasing data quality.	13123
Fixed validation error occurring for the telephone number field on the Reps & Certs Question 31 reducing user frustration.	14468
Fixed an issue where the display of FAR 52.204-17 differed between the PDF and the application increasing data consistency between display mediums.	14558
Manage Federal Hierarchy	
Addressed update/move/add level usability issues in the Federal Hierarchy Management process to streamline the process.	9730
Manage Search Process	
Fixed keyboard copy (Ctrl+c), cut (Ctrl+x), and paste (Ctrl+v) function for DUNS Number Search field in Search Records increasing usability.	10921
Updated text within the Delinquent Federal Debt "What is this?" pop-up to provide a clear explanation of how the Delinquent Federal Debt indicator is populated, what impact it has on contract payment, and who to contact with questions if you see a registrant with Delinquent Federal Debt.	14536



Manage User Account	
Fixed an issue on the Confirmation page of a newly created user account to not display empty space before the user's First Name.	12504
Added text on the Individual Create User Account page to reflect the upper limit of the SAM password reducing user confusion if they tried to enter a password with more than fifteen characters.	13007
Manage Entity Users	
Updated the role request process to display only roles that have not yet been granted to the user via another process in order to reduce user confusion when viewing and/or approving/rejecting role requests.	11139
Fixed an issue on the Pending Roles Request page that prevented all of the pending role requests for Agency Roles Administrators from displaying in certain circumstances.	14239
Fixed an issue where users/DUNS were not viewable under Manage Entity Users if they had roles with the incorrect point in time IDs of their entity management registration.	15422
Site-Wide	
Added the Processing Swirl for the remaining common process sections including Manage Entity Users, Manage Federal Hierarchy, and the Individual Data Access Request pages, to indicate when the system is processing a request.	10930
Added section-level headers to the application so users who rely on screen readers are more easily able to identify and navigate through the different sections of a page.	14121
Fixed an issue where international registrants were getting an error if they had alpha characters and hyphens in the Zip/Postal Code field of their physical address reducing frustration.	14302
Updated the SAM Status Tracker to pull the date submitted from the internal database table, instead of calculating it, to provide a more consistent view of the registration.	14465
Fixed an issue where screen readers were unable to read the registration details when an entity was selected from the Register/Update Entity page increasing usability for users of assistive technology.	14925
Made the Entity and Role "Dynatree" functionality consistent throughout the application order to improve user experience. Screen reader devices will render "Selectable Selected/Not Selected", "Expandable Expanded/Collapsed" and "Checkbox Checked/Unchecked" as appropriate.	15230



Fixed an issue in the SAM API where it wasn't returning a string if the value had square brackets in the DBA name improving usability of the API.	15405
Deployed pre-January 2015 and post January 2015 versions of SAM API to support users who coded to an earlier version of the Reqs & Certs. Using this issue to expand discussion with our API users on version control and API management best practices.	15439
Updated the SAM User Guide with changes from the March 27, 2015 release to properly describe new functionality.	15584
Updated the SAM Home Page section for users who interface with SAM data through extracts or web services to provide current guidance.	15639
Increased usability by updating the application to display a pop-up notification for unauthenticated users (i.e. those who have not logged into SAM) warning them their session will expire in five minutes due to inactivity. Users are then given five minutes to extend their session. If they do not extend their session, they are returned to the SAM Home Page.	15816
Viewing Records	
Fixed a display issue where the prior Point In Time (PIT) record and newer PIT of an entity registration were briefly shown in Search concurrently, i.e. the registration update was just activated and a search returned the new result and the record it just replaced.	12119
Updated the display of the POC Name on the Entity Dashboard page to show the Entity Administrator or Entity Registration Representative user that last submitted the registration.	12510
Fixed an issue where certain users were unable to view the Entity Record and Reqs & Certs pages via Search because of certain selections to two questions in the Reqs & Certs.	15595
Web Services	
Changed the display of the SBA string in the SAM Entity Management web service to show the name, code, and expiration date in separate XML tags increasing usability of the data.	14375
Added the ability to search for multiple CAGE codes to the SAM Entity Management web service increasing interface usability.	15016